

**From:** Arnie  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/16/01 8:07pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft: Mother of Computer Viruses

Microsoft's well-documented battle against Java seems like an old story, but the casualties are still mounting. As a cornerstone of their battle against JAVA, and any platform-independent APIs, MS introduced and expanded the scripting capabilities of their applications to allow web-based scripting. This has been the basis for vastly destructive computer viruses (worms) from Melissa to code-red. While Sun spent many dollars and man-years making Java highly secure, constraining the scope of its actions, and designing it for internet activity, Microsoft rushed its existing scripting system into the internet business without any precautions. This has made it trivial to create worms which access a users MS Outlook addressbook to spread themselves. MS negligence in this area verges on criminal. While the media cites "Internet Viruses" and, especially now, various agencies are looking with renewed concern at computer security issues, the quiet truth is that these viruses are virtually all limited to Microsoft's shoddy applications. In this area in particular, their dominance is fundamentally dangerous. Like a crop with insufficient genetic diversity, an internet without diverse servers, app.s and O.S.s is more vulnerable to any single virus. The fact that Microsoft's OS monopoly leverages their applications hegemony makes these vulnerabilities more severe, and allows mediocre development to combine with a careless and hurried approach to security.

The current proposed settlement does very little to reintroduce competition or diversity into markets that MS has already swallowed. It does absolutely nothing to address the systematic degradation of computer security which Microsoft P.R. describes as innovation. Well-publicized security holes in WindowsXP and MS Passport/Wallet systems should be troubling, but the unpublicized gaps sure to be lurking in a system of this complexity, from a group with this track-record of negligence should be terrifying. Microsoft's incompetent domination of the internet should be seen as an issue of national security, and yet it is being swept under the rug like a mere industry anti-trust squabble. Please save us!

Sincerely,  
Arnie Cachelin  
Senior Software Engineer  
NewTek, Inc.  
San Antonio TX